

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were pending in the present application. Upon entry of this response, claims 1, 7, and 12-14 have been amended. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, and, in particular, on page 5, and at page 12, line 15. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants thank the Examiner his review of the cited references and for return of the initialed PTO-1449.

Regarding the Abstract

On pages 7-8 of the present Office Action, the Examiner reproduces the guidelines for the "proper language and format" for an abstract. Upon review of the abstracted submitted by the Applicants in the October 10, 2003 response to Office Action, the abstract as submitted appears to conform to the recited length and stylistic guidelines. The Applicants are therefore uncertain as to why the Examiner has reproduced the guidelines, and cannot find any specific comment addressed to the Applicants concerning the submitted abstract.

Should there be an informality or objection which the Applicants need to address, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call or other communication from the Examiner detailing the correction needed.